IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) An audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone, comprising:

a proximity determinator to repeatedly determine a distance based on a round trip delay between a handset of said cordless telephone and a base unit of said cordless telephone; and

an attenuator to attenuate an audio path between said handset and said base unit based on said repeatedly determined distance.

2. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said cordless telephone has a speakerphone functionality; and

said effected attenuation reducing instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

3. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said given attenuation is a fixed amount of attenuation based on said determined distance being less than or equal to a given threshold proximity distance between said handset and said base unit.

4. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said given attenuation is a variable amount of attenuation based on a relationship between a desired amount of attenuation and said determined distance.

5. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 4, wherein:

said desired amount of attenuation is determined from a look up table.

6. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein said proximity determinator further comprises:

a receive signal strength indicator module.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) An ~~The~~ audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone, comprising: ~~according to claim 1, wherein said proximity determinator further comprises: a global positioning satellite system~~

a proximity determinator including a global positioning satellite system to repeatedly determine a distance based on a round trip delay between a handset of said cordless telephone and a base unit of said cordless telephone; and

an attenuator to attenuate an audio path between said handset and said base unit based on said repeatedly determined distance.

9. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 8, wherein:

said global positioning satellite system is installed in said handset.

10. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said proximity determinator determines said distance only when said handset and said base unit are operating simultaneously.

11. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 10, wherein

at least one of said handset and said base unit is operating in a speakerphone mode when said distance is determined.

12. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is a muting of said audio path.

13. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is variable in relationship to a distance between said handset and said base unit.

14. (original) The audio path attenuation controller for a cordless telephone according to claim 1, wherein:

said attenuation is a fixed amount of attenuation.

15. (currently amended) A method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone, comprising:

repeatedly determining a proximity of a handset of said cordless telephone to a base unit of said cordless telephone <u>using a round trip delay timing of a signal between said handset and said base unit</u>; and

when said handset is within a predetermined distance to said base unit, attenuating at least one audio path between said handset and said base unit based on said repeatedly determined proximity.

16. (original) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, further comprising:

placing said cordless telephone in a speakerphone mode;

said attenuation reducing instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

17. (original) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 16, wherein:

said at least one audio path is a path from a microphone of said handset.

18. (previously presented) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, further comprising:

determining simultaneous operation of said handset and said base unit of said cordless telephone.

19. (original) The method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 15, wherein:

said proximity is determined using a receive signal strength indicator of a received signal.

20. (canceled)

21. (currently amended) A ~~The~~ method of attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone, comprising: ~~according to claim 15, wherein: said proximity is determined~~

repeatedly determining a proximity of a handset of said cordless telephone to a base unit of said cordless telephone using a difference between a GPS determined location of said handset and a GPS determined location of said base unit; and

when said handset is within a predetermined distance to said base unit, attenuating at least one audio path between said handset and said base unit based on said repeatedly determined proximity.

22. (currently amended) Apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone, comprising:

means for repeatedly determining a proximity of a handset of said cordless telephone to a base unit of said cordless telephone based on a round trip delay between said base unit and said handset; and

means for attenuating at least one audio path between said handset and said base unit when said handset is within a predetermined distance to said base unit based on said repeatedly determined proximity;

wherein said attenuation prevents instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.

23. (original) The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein:

said at least one audio path is a path from a microphone of said handset.

24. (previously presented) The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for determining simultaneous operation of said handset and said base unit of said cordless telephone.

25. (original) The apparatus for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone according to claim 22, wherein said means for determining comprises:

a receive signal strength indicator module.

26. (canceled)

27. (currently amended) Apparatus ~~The apparatus~~ for attenuating an audio path of a cordless telephone, comprising: ~~according to claim 22, wherein said means for determining comprises:~~

means for repeatedly determining a proximity of a handset of said cordless telephone to a base unit of said cordless telephone based on a location provided by a global positioning satellite system;

means for attenuating at least one audio path between said handset and said base unit when said handset is within a predetermined distance to said base unit based on said repeatedly determined proximity;

wherein said attenuation prevents instability in audible feedback between said handset and said base unit.